(c) and (d) The Ministry of Tourism have sanctioned Dholavira Development Project for an amount of Rs. 32.69 lakhs during the year 1998-99. In the current financial year the project Development of Dholavira (Phase-I) has been prioritized for Rs. 93.00 lakhs in consultation with the Government of Gujarat.

Threat to the convergence of Ganga and Bhagirathi

*136. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to stop erosion of the Bhagirathi near Akheriganj in the district of Murshidabad, West Bengal, which threatens convergence of the Ganga and the Bhagirathi; and

(b) the action being taken to divert the changing course of the Ganga along the river Pagla in the district of Malda bypassing Farakka barrage?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) An Expert Committee set up by the Union Government in the year 1996 to examine the erosion problem by the river Ganga in Malda and Murshidabad districts has recommended protection of the Akheriganj on the right bank of river Ganga by spurs and revetment works. The Union Government in consultation with the Government of West Bengal during 1997 had prioritised schemes recommended by the Expert Committee for execution by the Centre (Farakka Barrage Project Authority) and West Bengal, in accordance with their jurisdiction. The scheme for protection of Akheriganj area was prioritised as a short term measure to be executed by the State Government from the State Plan Funds. At the request of the State Government, an amount of Rs. 30 crore as additional Central Assistance was provided by the Centre as a special case to the Government of West Bengal during the financial year 1998-99 for execution of short term measures including the scheme for protection of Akheriganj.

(b) To arrest the changing course of Ganga along the river Pagla in the district of Malda upstream of Farakka barrage, Government of West Bengal has proposed to undertake repair of existing spurs,

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construction of a new spur and an embankment near Gopalpur in Malda district.

Verma Committee Report on Banking Sector

*137. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Verma Committee on banking sector has submitted its Report to Government;

(b) if so, what are the highlights of the Report;

(c) which are the recommendations accepted by Government; and

(d) what are the reasons for non-acceptance of the rest of them, recommendation-wise details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Working Group on restructuring Weak Public Sector Banks appointed by Reserve Bank of India and headed by Shri M.S. Verma has submitted its report to the RBI. Copy has been sent to Government by RBI.

(b) The Group has recommended a comprehensive restructuring programme covering operational, organizational, financial and systemic restructuring. The comprehensive restructuring programme envisages the following:

(1) Operational restructuring involving

(i) basic changes in the mode of operations,

(ii) induction of modern technology

(iii) resolution of the problem of high non-performing assets and

(iv) drastic reduction in cost of operations.

(2) Organisational restructuring aimed at improved governance of the banks and enhancement in management involvement and efficiency.

(3) Financial restructuring with conditional recapitalisation.

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